(a) and (b) BIS conducted a survey in some of the major cities and out of 75 samples of jewellery tested, only 9 were found conformingto the claimed purity.

(c) Whether any action can be taken by BIS against those whose samples were not of the claimed purity is under examination of BIS.

Import of edible oils

2634. SHRISOLIPETA RAMACH ANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual domestic demand of edible oils in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of annual edible oils production in the country, State-wise;

(c) the quantity of edible oils imported during the last three years and the value thereof, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve production of edible oils in the country to avoid import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and(b) Data relating to State-wise domestic demand as well as production of edible oils are not maintained. However, annual domestic demand of edible oils and annual production of edible oils in the country during the year 2000-2001 has been 94.29 lakh metric tonne and 54.54 lakh metric tonne, respectively.

(c) Import of edible oils during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1998-1999	2621851	758892.58
1999-2000	4195638	804605.37
2000-2001	3974638	593275.74

(d) Some of the steps taken/efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are :—

(i) Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country. Under the programme financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, imporvedfarm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micronutrients, rhizobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organized on the farmers fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

(ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technology.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds to tree and forest origin, ricebran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ix) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is revised from time to time.